

## **RE/MAX Long Drive Championship of England**

### **Farnham Golf Club, Surrey**

#### **Reigning European Champ skins them again**

Richard Allen loves the RE/MAX English Championship at Farnham. He won the event last year on his way to securing the European title and this year he repeated the feat by blasting the toughest opposition of the year into the weeds!

The majority of the top contenders for the European crown plus a record number of rookies could not halt Allen's progress through the first rounds. A lucky break in the semi's saw him qualify for the final by the narrowest of margins despite straining a back muscle.

The entry at Farnham was of the highest quality containing the 2005 RE/MAX European Champion, Joe Miller, 2007 RE/MAX champions from Spain, Stef Gresel (Netherlands); Scotland, Janos Uotila (Finland); Austria, Marcus Edblad (Sweden); Italy, Paul Glazier (England); and France and Ireland, Adam Stacey (England). The explosive Miller actually posted the longest drive of the day in his qualifying round at 347 metres (381 yds)

The Seniors Division was again won by Ivan Sanders, who saw off the challenge of former British champion Bob Nally with his best driving of the year at 281 metres (309 yds).

The Open Final saw the injured Allen taking the tee first and setting a target of 336 metres (370 yds). This was not to be bettered although Uotila at 324m and Stacey at 319 metres came the closest.

The Order of Merit table is now becoming clearer. This is the league decided by results at each of the National Championships and provides places at the RE/MAX World Finals for the top two at the end of the season. Finn Janos Uotila is in a commanding lead with a seven point margin over England's Paul Glazier. Exempt player Stacey is in third with Stef Gresel and Marcus Edblad the only other players now in contention. It looks like a couple of good placings in the remaining three rounds from Uotila and Glazier should see them qualify however strong finishes from the others could still see a late challenge.